DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : The people of Assam want to know as to how the army operations can be carried out on their own when the State Governments, who is primarily responsible for law and order, is not aware of it or the Union Government is not aware of it. Therefore, I request that the Union Government should come out openly and make a statement in this regard. I hope they will make a statement at the earliest.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Sir, I am not raising any controversial issue in the House. I would only like to submit that today is the last day of the Session. I read in the newspapers that the Prime Minister has agreed to have a Secretarial level meeting with Pakistan. At the backdrop of successful completion of elections in Jammu and Kashmir, I request that, through you, the entire House must express our total solidarity and support to the people of Jammu and Kashmir who have expressed their profound faith in the Constitution of India ignoring threat of international terrorist gangs. At the backdrop of this if, through you or through the Prime Minister, the solidarity of this House is expressed it will give a great solace to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

[Translation]

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR (Katihar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw attention of the Central Government towards my Lok Sabha Constituency, Katihar. There are two jute mills in Katihar in which a large number of labourers are engaged. But for the last many years, Katihar jute mill is lying closed which has affected 3000 families and they are on the verge of starvation I would like to make my humble submission to the hon. Prime Minister that necessary action may be taken at the earliest for reopening of these mills. It will not only benefit the labourers engaged in it but also the farmers of Kosi Circle who produce jute and whose livelihood depends upon these mills.

12.04 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

Leader of Opposition in Parliament (Allowances, Medical and other Facilities Amendment Rules, 1996.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table of the House a copy of the Leaders of Opposition in Parliament (Allowances, Medical and other Facilities) Amendment Rules, 1996 (Hindi and English Versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 211 (E) in Gazette of India dated 15th May, 1996, under sub-section(3) of Section 10 of the Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977.

[Placed in Library. See No LT 18/96]

12.05 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need for early functioning of Airstrip at Paliakalan, Lakhimpur Kheri, U.P.

[Translation]

DR. G.L. KANAUJIA (Kheri) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Parliamentary Constituency, Lakhimpur Kheri is contiguous to Nepal border. Construction of an airstrip at Paliakalan had been completed about one year ago. The local villagers would start encroachment on the land of this airstrip, if it is not made functional soon. Rainy season is likely to start and it is a flood prone area. At that time, it would be difficult for the local administration to stop the encroachment. It is an important airstrip which is situated between Kathmandu and Bareilly and is about 500 k.m. away from Nepal border. I, therefore, request the Government to make this airstrip functional at the earliest.

(ii) Need to provide Financial Assistance to Government of Madhya Pradesh to solve acute drinking water problem in the State.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA (Ujjain) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Madhya Pradesh is facing acute shortage of drinking water, I request the Central Government to issue necessary instructions for providing assistane and making arrangement for supply of drinking water in the State.

(iii) Need to run a train between Delhi and Ajmer on newly laid broad gauge line.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr Speaker, Sir, the newly laid broad gauge line between Delhi and Ajmer was inaguarated by the then Railway Minister on 5th June 1995 More than one year has elapsed but no train has been introduced on this broad gauge line which was constructed by spending crores of rupees. It has resulted in resentment among the lakhs of people of Ajmer. In spite of several requests made by various political parties, representatives of people and organaisations no train has been introduced so far between Delhi and Ajmer for the benefit of common people.